

REMARKS

Claims 39-64 are pending in this application, none of which have been amended. No new claims have been added.

Claims 39-41, 46-48, 50-53, 58-60 and 62-64 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,531,354 to Bonin (hereinafter "Bonin").

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Bonin discloses a disc drive implementing a dual-stage actuation system having an improved scheme for electrically interconnecting a transducing head to a flexure includes a support structure supporting a slider in proximity to a surface of a rotatable disc. The support structure is coarsely positionable in a main actuator. A microactuator is also provided, including a stator 64 attached to the support structure and a rotor 66 operatively attached to the slider. The rotor is connected to the stator by two flexible beams 56, 58. A first electrical interconnect is formed between the support structure and the stator of the microactuator. A conductive trace is formed on the flexible beam between the stator and the rotor of the microactuator. A second electrical interconnect is formed between the rotor of the microactuator and at least one bond pad on the slider electrically connected to the transducing head.

The Examiner has admitted that Bonin fails to configure the frame with coupling sections having an obtuse or smooth plane shape, as recited in independent claims 39 and 51, but has urged that such an arrangement would be obvious because gussets are well known.

Applicants respectfully disagree. In this particular case, Bonin could not be modified to have the obtuse or smooth plane shape because of the limited clearance between slider 24 and arms 56, 58 at the corners. There is no room to provide such an obtuse shape, as shown by corner reinforcements 115-118 in Fig. 11, or a smooth plane shape, as shown by corner reinforcements 125-128 in Fig. 12.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 42-45, 49, 54-57 and 62 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants respectfully defer this action until a FINAL Office Action, if any, is received.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims 39-64, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/705,885
Response to Office Action dated August 24, 2004

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Enclosures: Substitute Abstract of the Disclosure

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